CANCER OF THE LARGE INTESTINE

- Symptoms and Signs
  - cancer of the rectum
    - Hematochezia
    - Tenesmus
    - Bleeding is usually persistent
    - Blood may mixed with stool or mucus
  - right colon
    - attain large size before it is diagnosed
    - fatigability and weakness due to severe anemia
    - occult blood
    - vague right abdominal discomfort
  - Left colon
    - occlude the lumen
    - changes in bowel habits
    - ncreased frequency of defecation.
    - Partial or complete obstruction
    - Bleeding
    - The stool may be streaked or mixed with bright red or dark blood, and mucus is often clots.
    - alternating constipation
- Essentials of Diagnosis
  - Rectum
    - • Rectal bleeding.
    - • Alteration in bowel habits.
    - • Sensation of incomplete evacuation.
    - • Intrarectal palpable tumor.
    - • Sigmoidoscopic findings.
  - Right colon
    - • Unexplained weakness or anemia.
    - • Occult blood in feces.
    - • Dyspeptic symptoms.
    - • Persistent right abdominal discomfort.
    - • Palpable abdominal mass.
    - • Characteristic x-ray findings.
    - • Characteristic colonoscopic findings.
  - Left colon
    - • Change in bowel habits.
    - • Gross blood in stool.
    - • Obstructive symptoms.
    - • Characteristic x-ray findings.
    - • Characteristic colonoscopic or sigmoidoscopic findings
- Etiology
  - • familial adenomatous polyposis
  - • Crohn's colitis
  - • Ulcerative colitis
  - • schistosomal colitis
  - • exposure to radiation
  - • colorectal polyps
  - saturated fat
  - • increased caloric intake
  - • decreased intake of fiber
- Cancer spreads
  - Direct Extension
    - extend by contiguity into neighboring structures
      - circumferentially and may completely encircle the bowel
      - the liver
      - , the greater curvature of the stomach
      - , the duodenum
      - , the small bowel
      - , the pancreas
      - , the spleen
      - , the bladder
      - , the vagina
      - abdominal wal
      - , the kidneys and ureters
  - Hematogenous Metastasis
    - hepatic metastases
    - Tumor embolization
      - lumbar and vertebral veins to the lungs
    - Metastases to ovaries
    - Venous invasion
  - Regional Lymph Node Metastasis
    - Longitudinal spread via extramural lymphatics
    - pelvic side wall
  - Transperitoneal Metastasis
    - Seeding
    - generalized abdominal carcinomatosis
    - Large metastatic deposits in the pelvic cul-de-sac are palpable as a hard shelf (Blumer's shelf).
  - Intraluminal Metastasis